

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1980

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH DE CUELLAR AND GORGE

REF: NICOSIA 1956

SUMMARY: DE CUELLAR SAW AMBASSADOR ONHON JULY 28. ONHON GAVE SOME DETAILS ON VAROSHA SITUATION GIVING IMPRESSION THAT NO "RESETTLEMENT" PLANNED. ONHON WAS NEGATIVE ON PROSPECTS FOR NEXT MEETING OF NEGOTIATIONS, SUGGESTING STRONGLY THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE SCHEDULED UNTIL AFTER AUGUST. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE CALLED ON DE CUELLAR AND GORGE JULY 29 TO DISCUSS THEIR JULY 28 MEETING WITH ONHON. THEY SAID GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING WITH ONHON WAS MORE NEGATIVE THAN USUAL. THEY RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT ONHON ANTICIPATES FIRM GOT POLICY ON CYPRUS AT LEAST IN SHORT TERM. HE WAS NOT HIS USUAL COOPERATIVE SELF ON MINOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS AND AT TIMES EVEN "SOUNDED LIKE INHAN", HIS TOUGH AND IRASCIBLE PREDECESSOR.

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2. ON FAMAGUSTA, ONHON SAID THAT GOT HAD DECIDED IN JUNE TO INCREASE OF VAROSHA OPEN TO TURK CYPRIOTS. THEREFORE, ECEVIT'S JULY 20 STATEMENT DID NOT REPRESENT A NEW DEPARTURE BUT MERELY CONFIRMATION OF A DEVELOPMENT THAT WAS ALREADY TAKING PLACE. THE ACTUAL INCREASE IN THE OPEN AREA INVOLVES THE CONSTANTIA HOTEL (BEING USED AS A HOTEL TRAINING SCHOOL), AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, THE MUNICIPAL NURSERY,

AND A STADIUM (EAST OF STEROPIS ST. AND NORTH OF LEOPHOROS ELEFTHERIAS). THERE ARE A FEW DWELLINGS IN THIS AREA (OF APPROXIMATELY 1200 SQUARE METERS) WHICH ONHON IMPLIED WOULD BE (OR WERE BEING) USED BY PERSONS CONNECTED WITH THE HOTEL TRAINING SCHOOL. WHEN DE CUELLAR ASKED MORE ABOUT POSSIBLE OPENING OF OTHER AREAS OF VAROSHA, ONHON WAS NON-COMMITTAL. IN SUM, IT APPEARS TO DE CUELLAR THAT THE AREA OF VAROSHA OPEN TO TURK CYPRIOTS IS VERY LIMITED IN SCOPE AND SHOULD NOT AT THIS TIME BE CHARACTERIZED AS THE BEGINNING OF A "RESETTLEMENT" PROGRAM.

3. GORGE SAID MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF ONHON'S PRESENTATION WAS HIS EXPLANATION THAT VAROSHA ISSUE HAS TWO ASPECTS, LEGAL AND POLITICAL, WHICH MUST BE KEPT SEPARATE. ON THE LEGAL SIDE, ONHAN SAID "DE JURE" (SIC) THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VAROSHA, KYRENIA, OR MORPHOU AS INTEGRAL PARTS OF TFSC. ECEVIT'S STATEMENT ONLY REINFORCES THIS POINT; THERE SHOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO IT ON LEGAL GROUNDS. ON THE OTHER HAND, ONHON CONCEDED VAROSHA ALSO IS A POLITICAL ISSUE AND THAT ECEVIT'S STATEMENT ALSO HAD POLITICAL CONTENT. ACCORDING TO GORGE, ONHON IMPLIED THAT ECEVIT MAY HAVE GONE "TOO FAR" IN THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF HIS STATEMENT. (COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT THE "LEGAL ARGUMENT" IS VERY CLOSE TO THE DENKTASH POSITION. HE SAYS IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY FOR SOME TIME TO POINT OUT THAT VAROSHA IS A PART OF THE TFSC JUST LIKE ALL THE REST OF THE TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE

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TURKISH SIDE. END COMMENT)

4. ON INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, ONHON TOOK A HARD LINE ON PROSPECTS FOR AN EARLY MEETING OF THE CYPRIOT NEGOTIATORS. ACCORDING TO DE CUELLAR, ONHON SAID IT IS STILL PREMATURE TO HOLD THE NEXT MEETING--AND NOT JUST BY A FEW DAYS. ONHON EXPECTS TO BE CALLED WITH DENKTASH TO ANKARA IN MID OR LATE AUGUST TO DISCUSS CYPRUS POLICY WITH THE NEWLY FORMED GOVERNMENT. HE TOOK THE POSITION THAT NO MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THEN. ONHON FURTHER SUGGESTED DE CUELLAR NOT RAISE WITH DENKTASH THE SUBJECT OF A FURTHER MEETING AT PRESENT TIME BECAUSE HE WOULD ONLY RECEIVE A STRONGER NEGATIVE REACTION.

5. DE CUELLAR IS TROUBLED ABOUT HOW HE SHOULD PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS. HE AND GORGE ANTICIPATE THAT THE NEXT NEGOTIATORS MEETING WILL BE TOTALLY NEGATIVE IN ITS EFFECT. THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS WILL FORMALLY REJECT THE GREEK CYPRIOT CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL OF APRIL 6, AND WILL NOT ACCEPT A DISCUSSION OF MISSING PERSONS EVEN THOUGH PAPADOPOULOS INSISTS. THEREFORE, DE CUELLAR FEARS THAT IF HE PUSHES HARD FOR AN EARLY MEETING, HE WILL BE USING UP HIS LAST OPPORTUNITY TO CALL A MEETING AND THE

RESULT WILL BE "DESTRUCTIVE" TO HOPES OF
ENTERING INTO A FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS. NEVERTHELESS, HE
PLANS TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE AUTHORITIES ON BOTH SIDES
TOWARD A MEETING TO KEEP THE PROCEDURE OF THE TALKS ALIVE.
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